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5 July 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

SUBJECT : Production Group S&T Exploitation

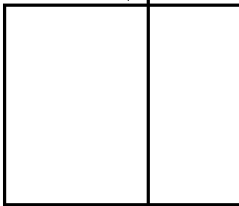
REFERENCE : Memorandum from Chief, UD to DD/FBIS dtd 21 May 79,  
subj: UD/S&TB Study

1. This memorandum addresses the recommendations in the referent study. It should be noted that Chief, UD's two preferred options-- (a) establish a new S&T Division or (b) keep the present Area Division breakdown but scale down the activities of UD S&T Branch--are not mutually exclusive. UD's S&T collection can be streamlined regardless of whether we opt for a reorganization. My thoughts on the reorganization idea follow. Chief, UD's recommendations on tightening S&T Branch activities is attached. Proposed actions are listed in paragraph 8 of this memorandum.

2. While an S&T Division may be the route we will wish to take in the future, it would be premature today. To carve a new Division out of our present T/O would mean a major, Group-wide rearrangement of positions and collection programs. It would split off the two UD Branches and appreciably affect the composition of ILAD and NEAAD. I don't see us taking that traumatic step while there are still so many unanswered questions about the scope and nature of S&T collection requirements. The STIC report refers in general terms to a potential for enhancing overt collection on such countries as [redacted] but the guidance it urges analysts to give the collectors has yet to materialize. The Science Attache [redacted] described the situation succinctly to me last fall: "There is too much information around, and too many analysts don't know what the questions are." We must see the questions before we muster our forces to answer them.

3. "Overt collection" itself has not been clearly defined. Members of the STIC working group spoke to us repeatedly last year about "non-media" information like institute proceedings, particularly [redacted] Much of this is available in English. We have no clear idea of what S&T information from that area, and how much, is in fact needed and is properly a collection target for FBIS.

4. The role of the media in S&T collection varies according to region.



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5. Even the term "S&T" lacks clear definition. Many new requirements described loosely as "S&T" are a far cry from the state-of-the-art research done from Soviet sources. The requirements for our new serial report on NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AND PROLIFERATION focus on news of who is giving what to whom, on industrial plant construction, and on political and economic statements. The new OSI requirements on technology transfer are in the same ballpark.



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6. All this has to be sorted out before we can arrive at a judgment of overall resource needs and decide on the best organizational structure. We now devote little more than one work year to S&T collection--defining "S&T" loosely--in all of ELAD. The ELAD work year is fragmented into bits and pieces of the time of linguists working in 10 languages on 10 countries, covering principally economic, political, military, and industrial information. The only requirement ELAD is not yet meeting is the one from OSI on technology transfer--and it is not for the most part "S&T" in the sense of the UD effort.



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To pluck a handful of people out of their multidisciplinary environments in ELAD and NEAAD and create an embryonic S&T Division might indeed, as Chief, UD suggests, give impetus to the buildup of our S&T capability, but at the risk of activating Parkinson's Law. To set up a new Division in search of a mission now, at a time when what we most need is flexibility to meet evolving new requirements over a broad spectrum of fields, economic as well as S&T, seems a luxury we can ill afford.

7. I have discussed the reorganization proposal in all the ELAD and NEAAD branches and at JPRS, following up on consultations in UD. A few people are attracted by the idea as a long-range goal. Many more are strongly opposed. Older hands recall that an international Science Branch existed in FDD and was

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disbanded because it greatly reduced flexibility to use area/language specialists to meet needs as they arose. The view most frequently expressed was that to contemplate a new Division in the absence of clear new requirements would put the cart before the horse.

8. NFAC/RES has told Liaison & Requirements Branch that no FBIS action on the STIC report is in order at this time. We can, however, move for an out-of-turn RES reading on specific points raised in the attachment. With your concurrence, I propose to proceed as follows:

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with designated people in various Branches for as long as an energy "cluster" served a useful purpose. Patterned in part on NFAC experiments, this approach might meet our needs without organizational disruption, physical relocation, or loss of flexibility.

Chief, Production Group

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